

F.R.S. and L.S. The state of the second of the Read February 4, 1806.

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PERHAPS one of the most interesting modern additions to our knowledge of the Natural Affinities of Vegetables, has been made among the Rubiacea. I presume to call it modern; for though Bernard de Jussieu arranged the plants of this order in the Trianon garden with great purity, so long ago as 1759, other botanists continued to mix several discordant genera with it, till his nephew's incomparable work appeared, shining like the morning star, the harbinger of day. By his labours, those genera which really belong to it are now clearly defined; and as far as what little knowledge I have gained of them enables me to judge, his artificial sections rarely break the links of that natural chain by which they hang together. Some useful corollaries may be deduced by the botanist who studies the various organizations of this extensive tribe of plants philosophically. From a comparison of the most anomalous, it appears to me that the general rule laid down by Linnè respecting genera, must be still more closely adhered to in natural orders. I would say, characterem fluere e ordine non ordinem e charactere, in the strongest sense of the words : for there cannot be the smallest doubt that Usteria, which has Pericarpium superum, belongs to the Rubiacea, though it is the only genus of them yet discovered with such a character. Our great master, indeed, in his

326 Mr. SALISBURY'S Description of a new Genus

his Classes Plantarum has long since taught us "nulla his valet regula a priori, nec una vel altera pars fructificationis, sed sola simplex symmetria omnium partium :" and the excellent canons of the French school may yet be improved, by a stricter attention to his principles on this head.


Among the primary characters of every Natural Order, stipulation is one of the most constant; nevertheless, in some of the verticillated genera of *Rubiaceæ*, *Galium* for instance, there is none at all. Linnè, to get over this difficulty, supposed that its stipules were converted into leaves: that this is not the case, however, is evidently proved not only by *Hamelia*, and other verticillated genera with real stipules corresponding in number to their leaves, but by *Galium* itself, in several species of which the uppermost leaves near the flowers are reduced to two, without any intervening stipule, as in the *Apocināæ*. Whether their joints are ever terminated by any of these glandular bristles so remarkable in some *Apocināæ*, I am yet ignorant; but the peduncles of many *Galiums* are reflexed when in fruit, presenting another point of

resemblance between the two orders.

The affinity of the curious genus now described is fortunately indubitable. It belongs to the 7th section of *Rubiacea*; and if mere number of parts is omitted in subdividing this family, as possibly it may be in future, it will stand next *Frölichia* of Vahl. I have not seen the ripe fruit, but when young it is bilocular, with a single seed in each cell: very soon after the flowers drop off, the seeds become long and narrow; and as the stipulation is so different from that of every known genus, I have named it after Edward Rudge, Esq. F.L.S., a botanist who has illustrated some of the plants of the country in which it grows wild, by the most accurate dissections ever yet given to

the public from dried specimens.

RUDGEA.



in the Natural Order of Rubiaceæ, called Rudgea.

RUDGEA.

327

Ordo Naturalis. Rubiaceæ Juss. Gen. p. 196.

Sect. VII. Fructus inferus, bilocularis loculis monospermis.

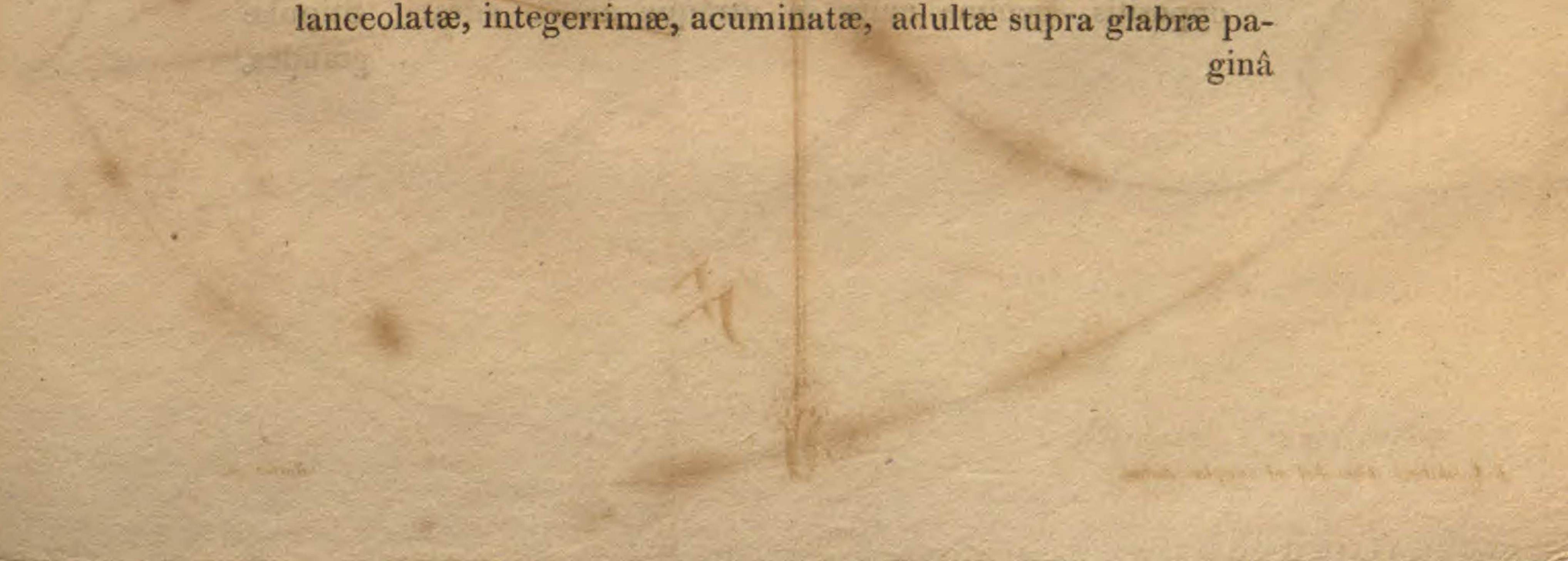
Stamina quinque. Arbores aut Frutices foliis oppositis.

Calyx profunde 5-fidus. Corollæ Tubus gracilis, longissimus: Limbus 5-partitus, laciniis e dorso apicis uncinatis. Filamenta fauce tubi inserta, antheris breviora. Pericarpium (in teneris) 2-loculare, loculis 1-spermis. Stigma 2-partitum, laciniis oblongis. Caulis teretiusculus, brachiatus. Stipulæ grandes, intus ni fallor ut in Apocinēis quibusdam pectinato-setaceæ ipso apice in nostris exemplaribus forsan caduco. Folia ampla paribus æqualibus. Flores paniculis densissimis terminalibus, sicci nigrescentes. Convenit cum Frölichiâ et Schraderâ lacinüs corollæ dorso uncinatis: reliquæ partes multûm abludunt.

lanceæfolia. 1. R. foliorum laminis lanceolatis, acuminatis: corolla 2 pollices longa.

TAB. XVIII. Sponte nascentem in La Guiane, legit D. Martin.

Caulis cinereus, vix tetragonus. Stipulæ interfoliaceæ erectæ, ovatæ, pectinato-setaceæ oris pallidioribus quasi sphacelatis vero apice forsan jam caduco, ad ultima folia sub florescentiam nondum decidua. Foliorum Petioli angusti, 5-6 lineas longi, dum juniores pube fuscâ vestiti, concavi: Laminæ 31-4 pollices latæ, circiter 10 pollices longæ, patentissimæ,



328 Mr. SALISBURY'S Description of a new Genus

ginà inferiore lævi, planiusculæ: Nervi plurimi, subtus fusci et prominentes, tenuiores sæpe ad angulum rectum cum primariis confluentes. Flores paniculis densissimis terminalibus, ipsi sessiles. Pedunculus solitarius, crassiusculus; ramis primis verticillatis, inde oppositis et, ni fallor, dichotomis; pubescens. Bracteæ ad singulos ramos solitariæ, inferiores longissime acuminatæ, basi dilatatæ, densè pubescentes. Calyx apice pericarpii insertus, 14 lineam longus, monophyllus, profunde 5-fidus: Laciniæ recurvo-patentes, cuneatæ, integerrimæ; extus densè pubescens, persistens. Corolla apice pericarpii inserta, monopetala, 2 pollices longa: Tubus gracilis, cylindraceus apice angustè infundibuliformi: Limbus tubo multò brevior, recurvus, 5-partitus; Laciniæ sublineares, integerrimæ, obtusæ, e dorso apicis unguem longum teretiusculum exserentes: extus densè pubescens, decidua. Filamenta 5, brevissima, parum decurrentia. Antheræ erectæ, sublineares, 2-loculares, facie dehiscentes. Pericarpium inferum; adhuc castum (germen Linn.) obconicum, intra corol-

lam nectario tumido coronatum, 2-loculare loculis 1-spermis; gravidum non vidi. Stylus gracilis, longitudine tubi. Stigma stylo multò latius, 2-partitum; laciniis recurvo-patentibus, obtusis, convexiusculis.

ovalifolia. 2. R. foliorum laminis ovalibus, breviter acuminatis: corollâ pollicem longâ.

Тав. ХІХ.

Sponte nascentem in La Guiane, legit D. Martin.

Caulis paulò crassior quam præcedentis, ramis proculdubio

